

**MARVEL**

ISSUE  
**18**

**UNITED WE STAND**

WOOD • BARBERI • PADILLA • VLASCO • GRACIA

**ULTIMATE COMICS™**

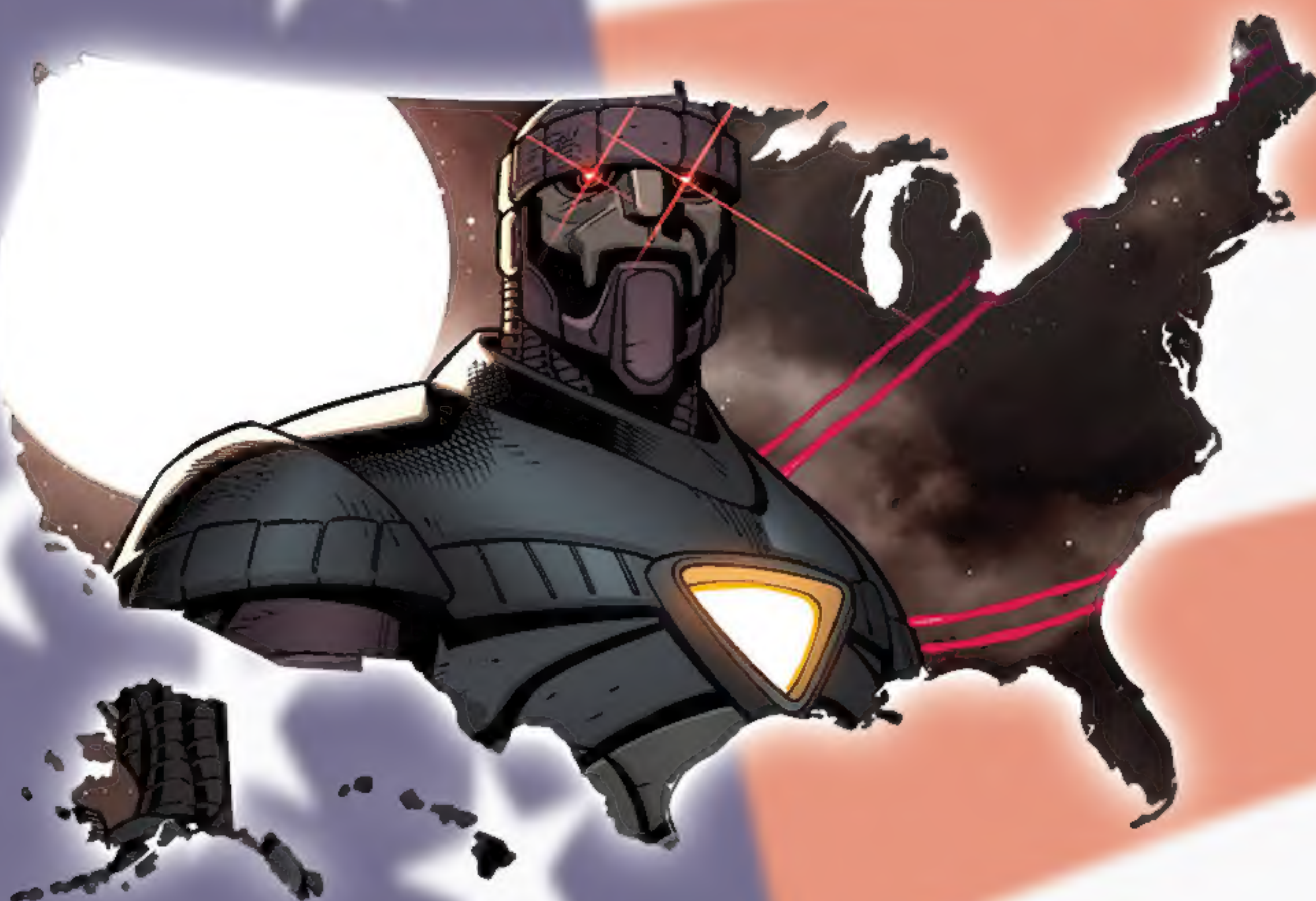
# **X-MEN®**





LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS ARE HATED AND FEARED MORE THAN EVER, ONE GROUP OF YOUNG HEROES HAS Banded TOGETHER TO FIGHT BACK.

ULTIMATE COMICS  
**X-MEN**



Mutants are outlawed.

Washington is decimated.

The U.S. government is in turmoil.

The Southwest is ruled by anti-mutant militias.

Armies of killer Sentinel robots patrol these seceded states.

But Kitty Pryde is gathering an army.

Ready to fight for mutants everywhere.

**UNITED WE STAND**



KITTY PRYDE



BOBBY DRAKE



JIMMY HUDSON



ROGUE

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# S.H.I.E.L.D. SITUATION MAP:

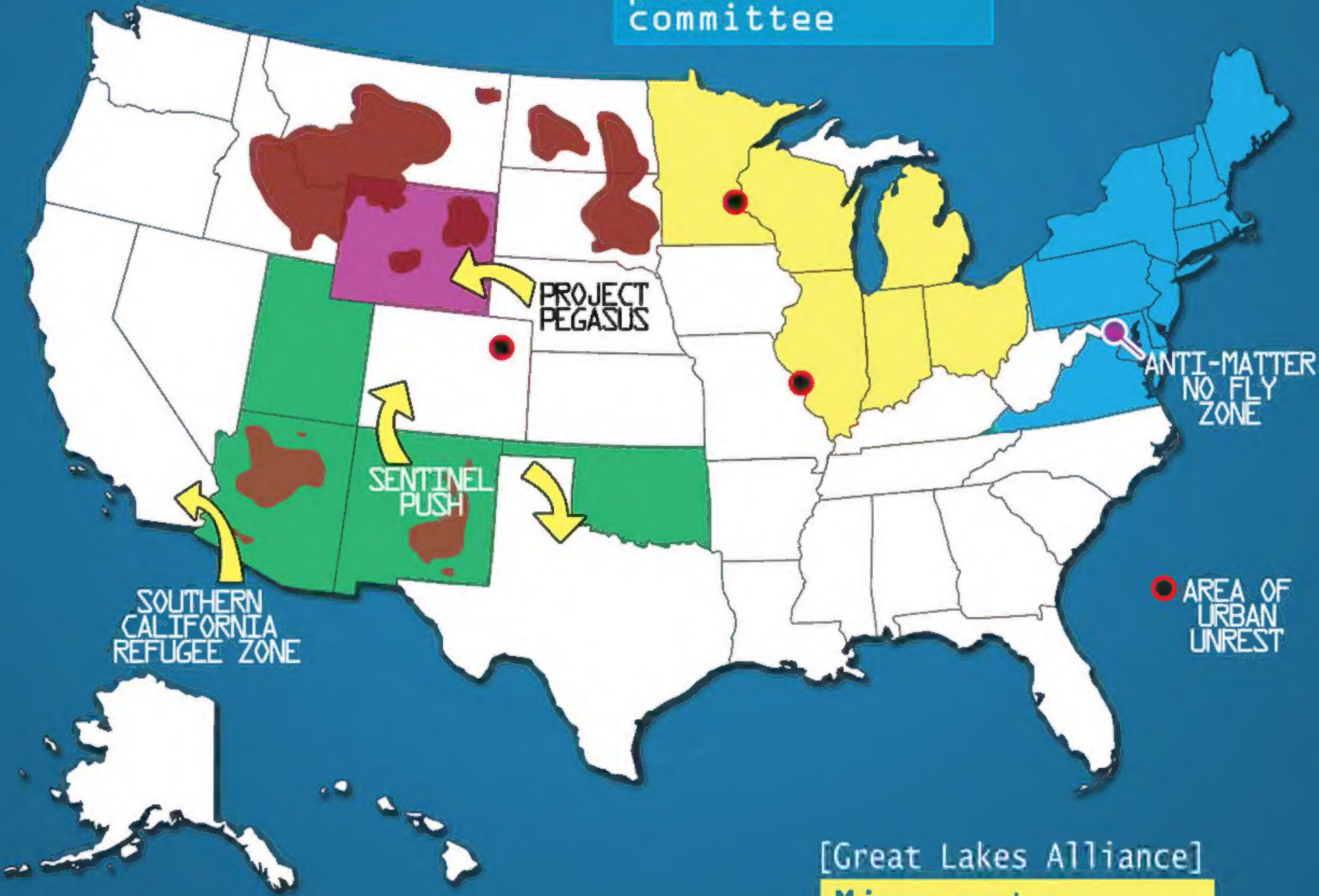
[Anti-government militia hot spots]

Idaho, Montana,  
N. Dakota, S. Dakota,  
Arizona, New Mexico,  
Wyoming

Wyoming  
status unknown

[Eastern seaboard control zone]

New England,  
New York,  
New Jersey,  
Delaware,  
Washington, D.C.,  
Maryland,  
Pennsylvania,  
Virginia  
secured by  
National Guard  
under emergency  
powers  
committee



[Sentinel-controlled no-man's-land]

New Mexico, Arizona,  
Utah, Oklahoma  
abandoned by the  
U.S. government

[Great Lakes Alliance]

Minnesota,  
Wisconsin,  
Michigan,  
Illinois,  
Indiana, Ohio  
Independent  
nation



ALL STATES  
SHOWN IN WHITE  
ARE U.S. GOVERNMENT-  
CONTROLLED ZONES



The idea of a "mutant nation" is gripping the country in the wake of both the statement from mutant leader Kitty Pryde and the ongoing battle for the Southwest states.

Public opinion is calling for military response, leading some prominent members of Congress to express ideas mimicking that of the infamous anti-mutant bigot William Stryker, believed to have inspired the recent round of violence and unrest.

The new President of the United States, Captain America, has promised swift resolution to the crisis in the Southwest.

In other news, a young man calling himself "Johnny Storm" was found on the streets of Brooklyn, severely dehydrated and showing signs of horrific and sustained torture.

Moving on to breaking news, as we have unconfirmed reports of hostilities, once again, flaring up in the Southwestern states...



**THE SOUTHWEST.  
STRYKER TERRITORY.**

The end of the war came sooner than I was expecting. But Fury would say nothing in battle ever goes to plan.

Yeah, you got incoming all right. I count twenty, thirty fast movers.

All stations, get ready...

**NICK FURY.**

Organizing the defenses was simple.

Telekinetics, fire!

This was our last stand.

**KITTY PRYDE.**



We were convenient scapegoats, Fury said...

...As the nation struggled to rebuild its government.

With Stryker's poisonous ideology breaking the United States apart, the general public was turning more and more anti-mutant.

We'd been fighting in the hills and canyons for weeks, waging a guerilla war, liberating camps and freeing mutants.

The political concerns of the rest of the nation felt far away.

We were building our *army*. Once victims, now warriors. Freedom Fighters. We couldn't leave our fate...

...in the hands of those who didn't believe we deserved to *exist*.

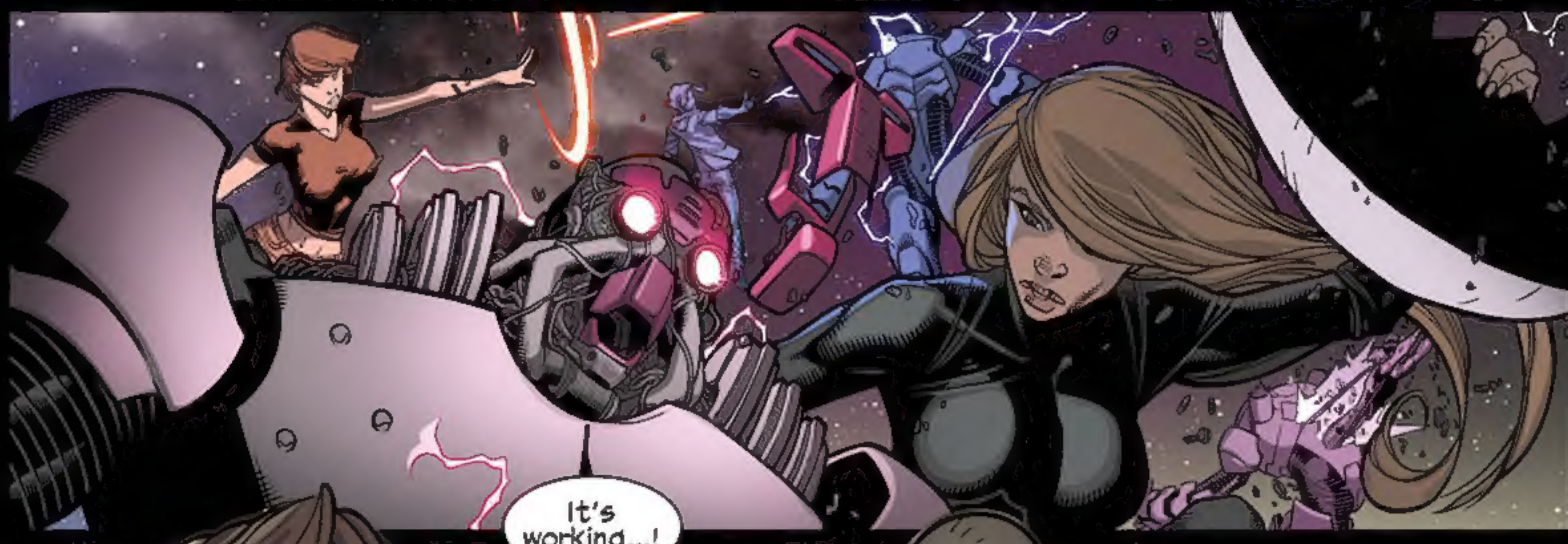
Telekinetics, cease fire!







Fliers,  
go!



It's  
working...!



Don't get greedy. You sent  
unarmored kids into a  
dogfight with Sentinels.  
Don't expose them for  
any longer than  
you need to.

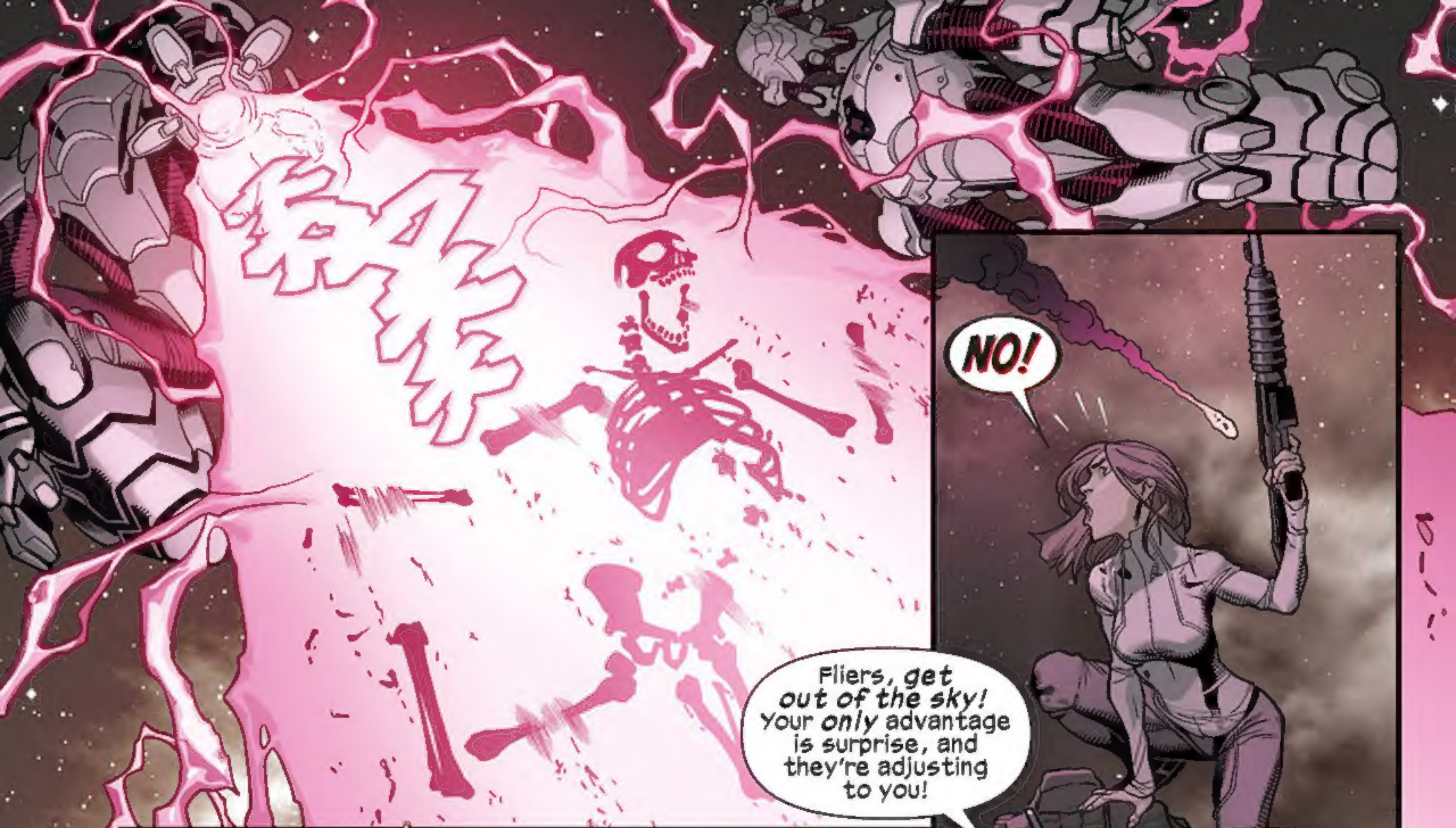


Fliers,  
pull back.

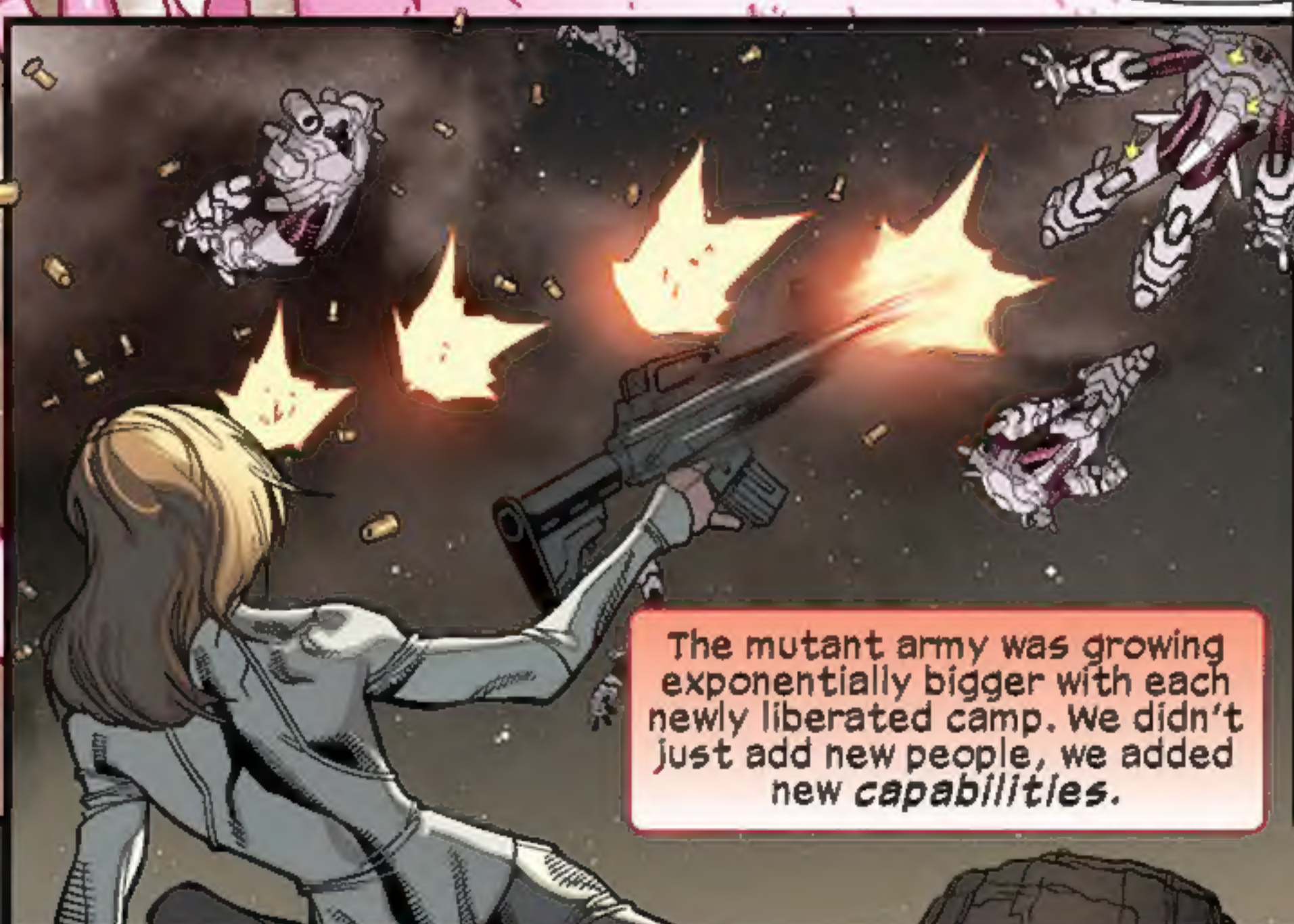
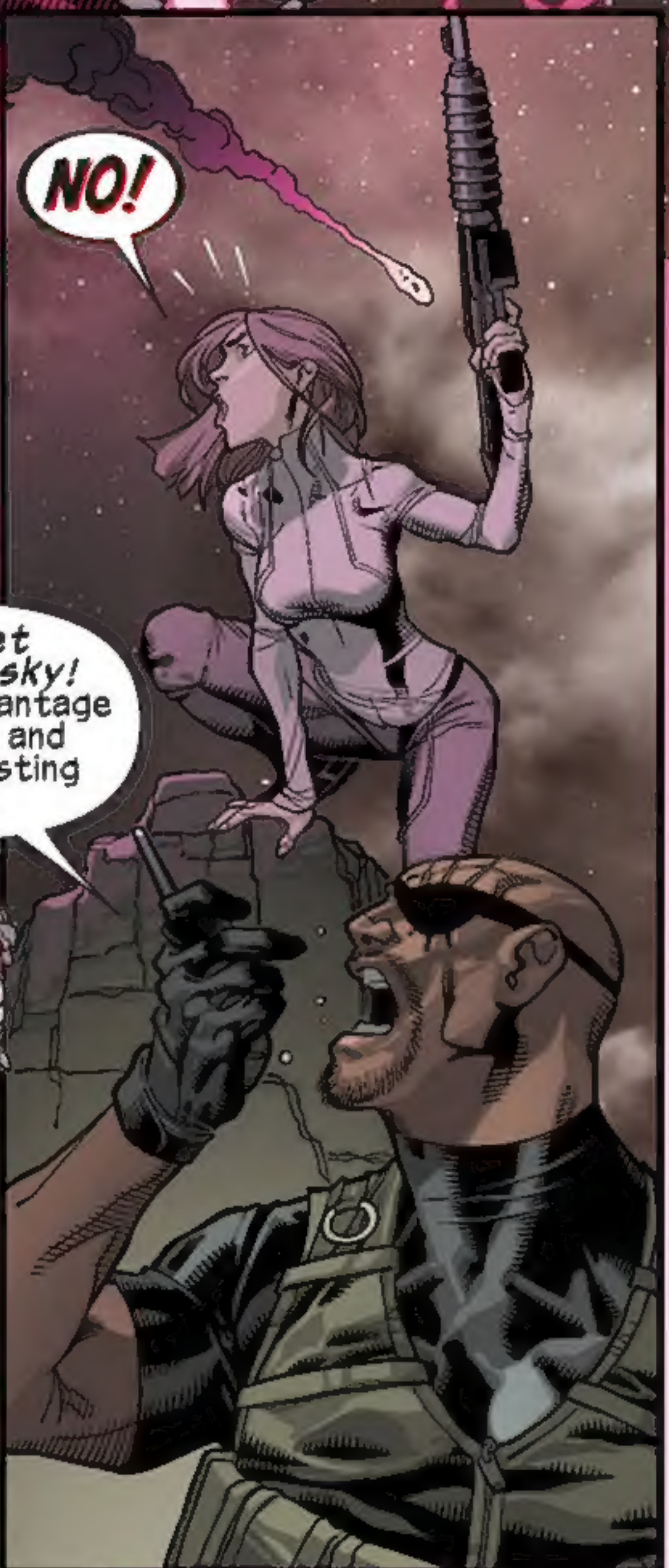
But this  
is fun!

FWOON



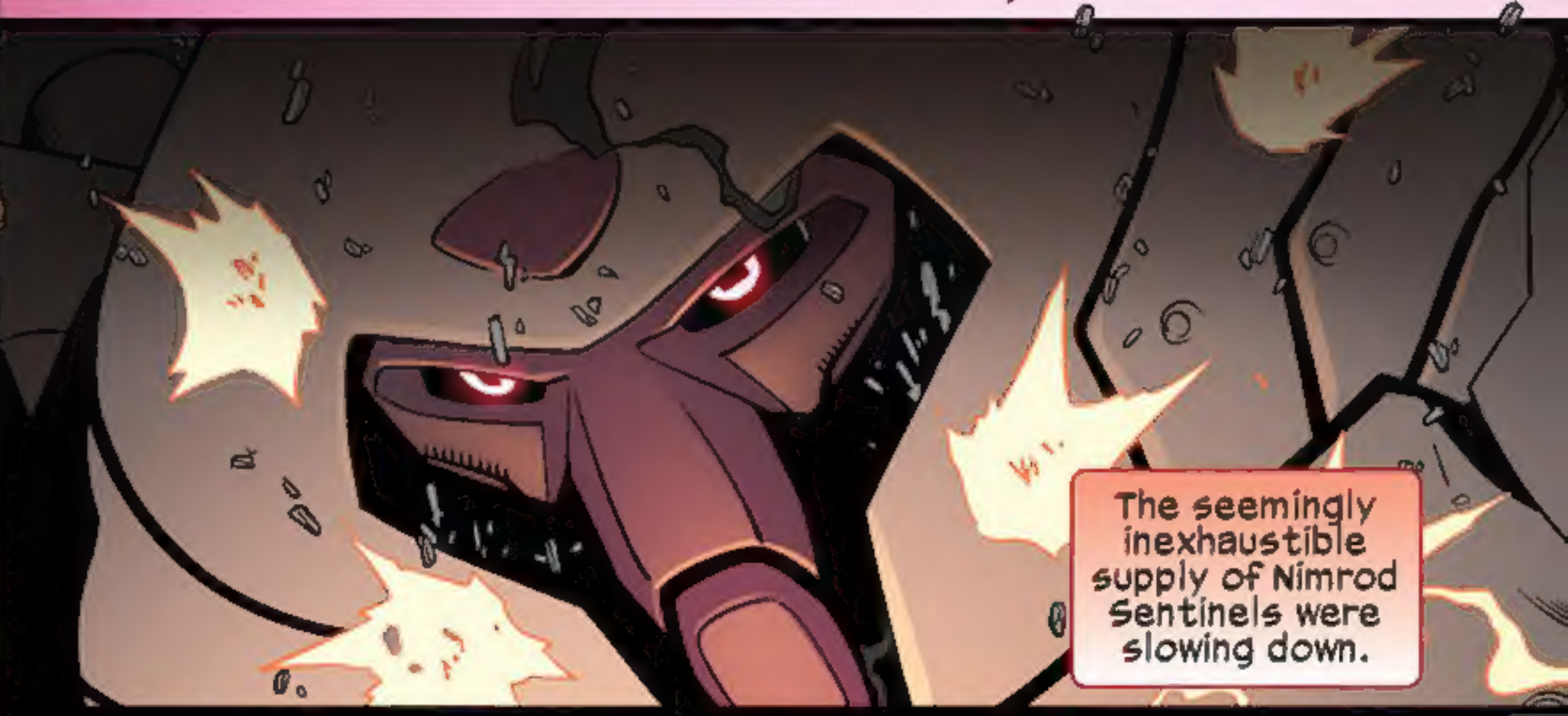
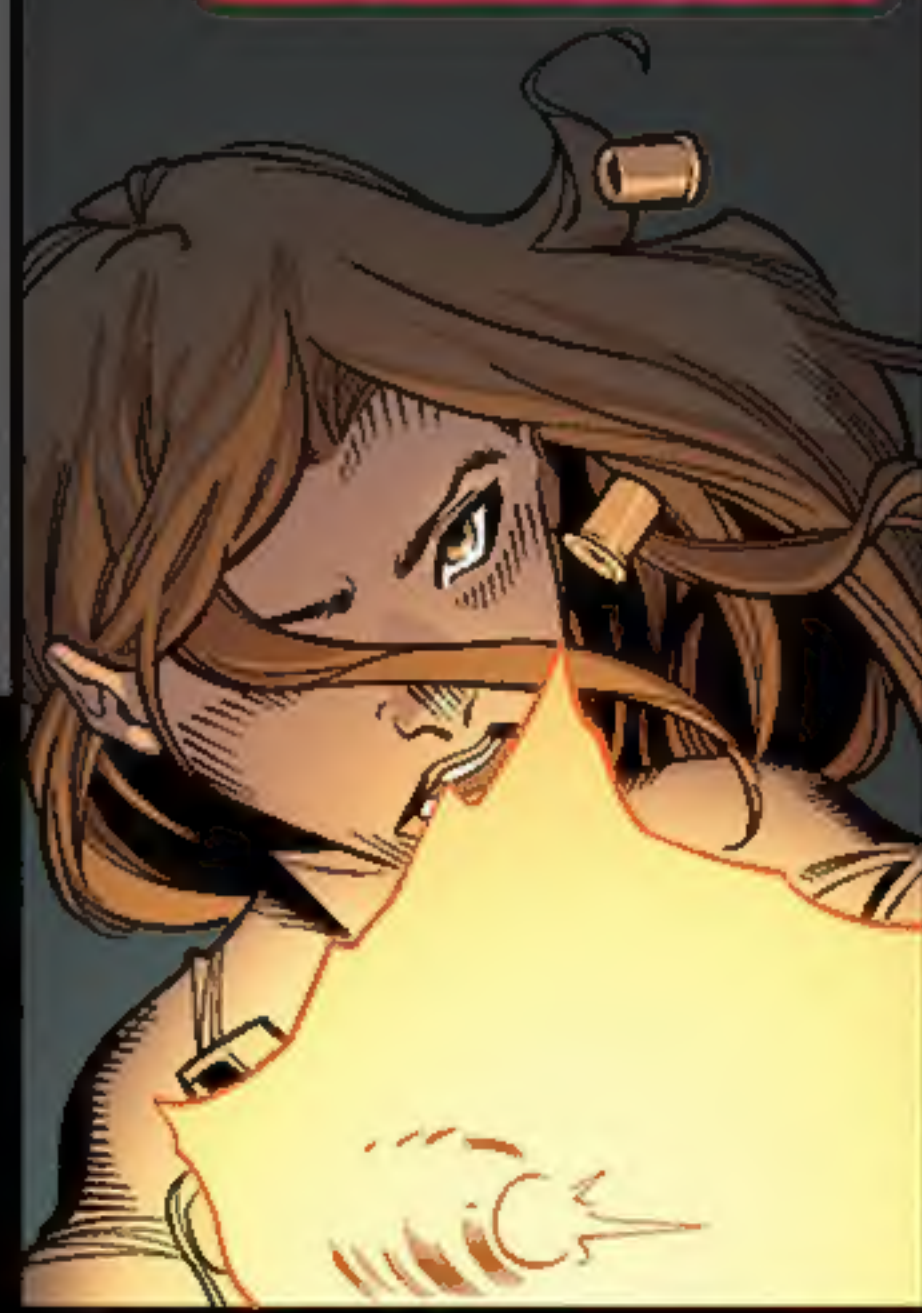


Fliers, get out of the sky! Your only advantage is surprise, and they're adjusting to you!



The mutant army was growing exponentially bigger with each newly liberated camp. We didn't just add new people, we added new *capabilities*.

The militia was in full retreat. Some of the more recent camps had already been abandoned.

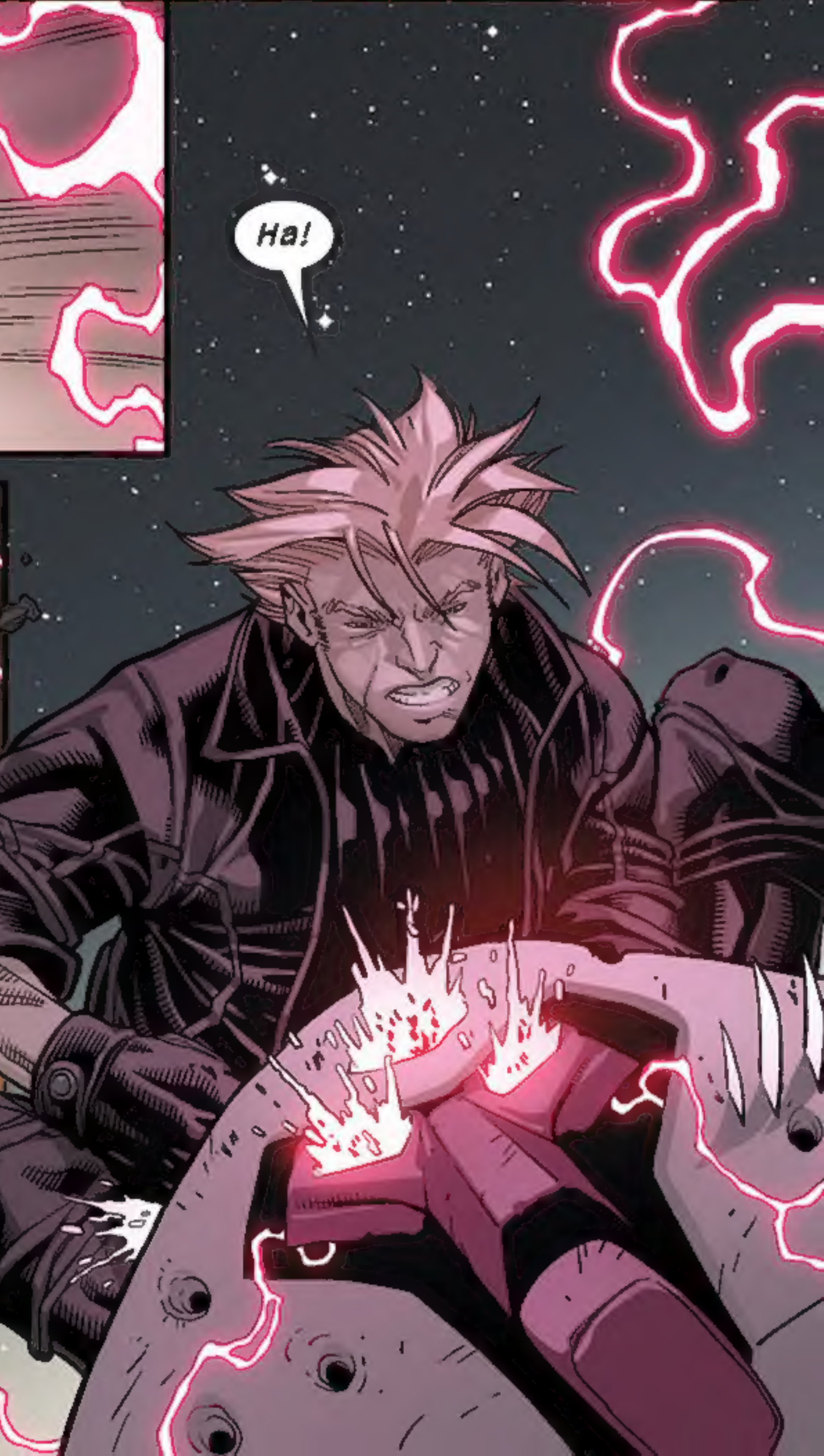
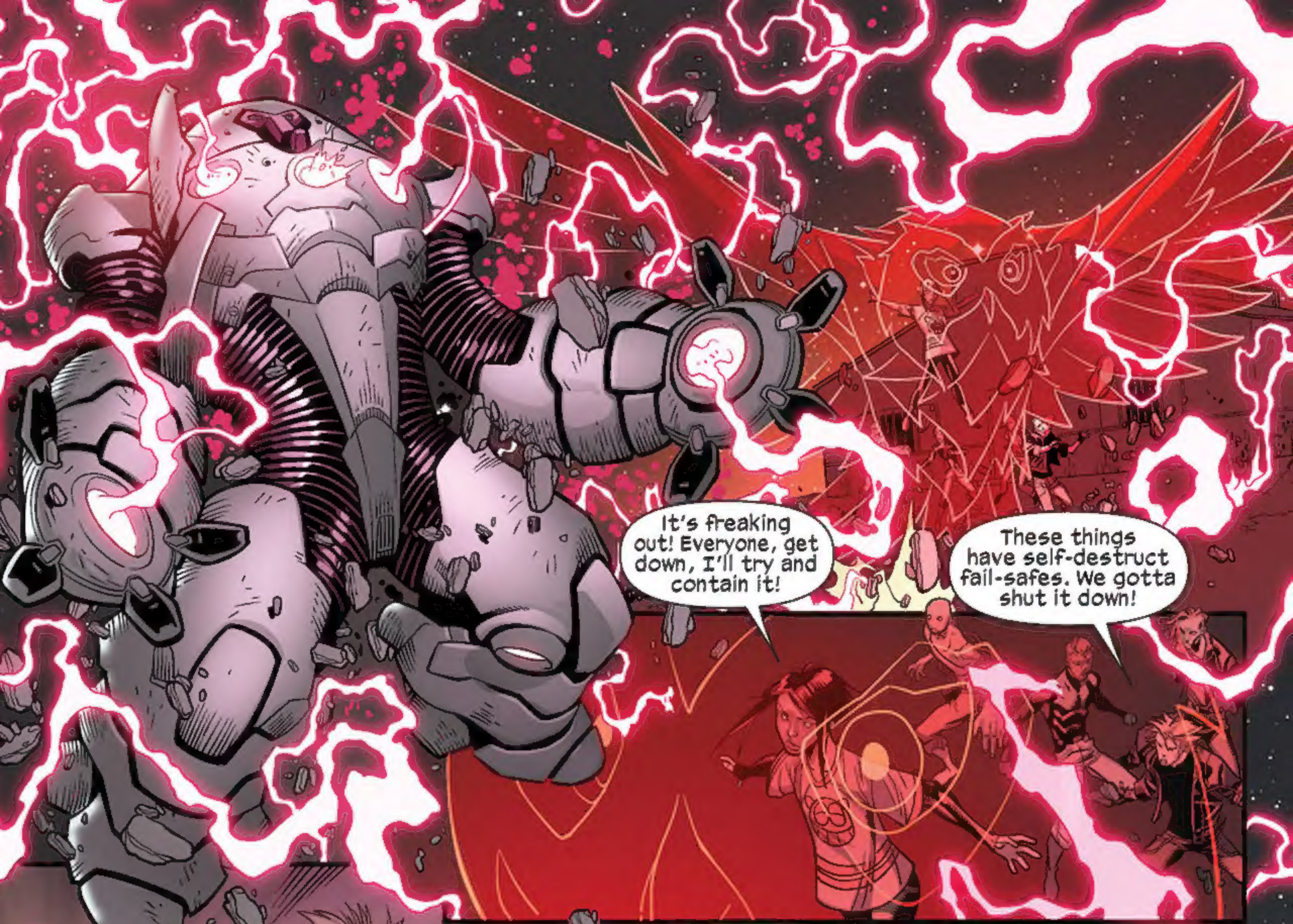


The seemingly inexhaustible supply of Nimrod Sentinels were slowing down.



We were winning.









Storm?

In position.



Everyone should probably find some serious cover.

This has been a long time coming.

Perhaps I should have seen the inevitable coming. It's like something Fury would say, about swapping one enemy for another...

...But in that moment, how could we have seen beyond the defeat of the Sentinels to the war that was still to come?



UNITED WE

STAND

WOOD/BARBER/PADILLA



We took the day. Not that these victories felt like celebrations.

Too many lost brothers and sisters...Amazing, *unique* mutants I would never really know.

How do you get used to this?

You can't.

Kitty, it's time I left.

You don't need me any more. Like I said at the start, a *mutant* needs to do this. You're ready.

I have duties to attend to elsewhere.

The new government?

It's the first step towards putting all this behind us. The collective "us," I mean. *America*.

I disagree about the mutant thing. You helped us so much, General Fury. And I think the world should know that...that people like you want to help people like us.

In time, perhaps.

You and yours have a few more steps to take to get there.

But you'll get there.

I caught up on the news feeds this morning.

Is the new government going to be a friend to mutants, or another enemy?





... Truthfully, I don't know. I believe mutants have a genuine friend in Cap. But he has a *whole country* to put back together.

And, as you noticed, you all aren't exactly polling high.

So...?

So, I don't have an answer for you on that.

But I will have your back no matter what a bunch of politicians have to say about it.

Now *come on*, Pryde, shake my hand.



I believe you.

Good. One last piece of advice.

Remember I told you there would be a time to put down that gun?

I'd recommend you try and remember to do so before Captain America comes to visit.

... He's coming here?

When??

My talk with Fury felt like the end of something...



ELSEWHERE.

THY WILL  
BE DONE

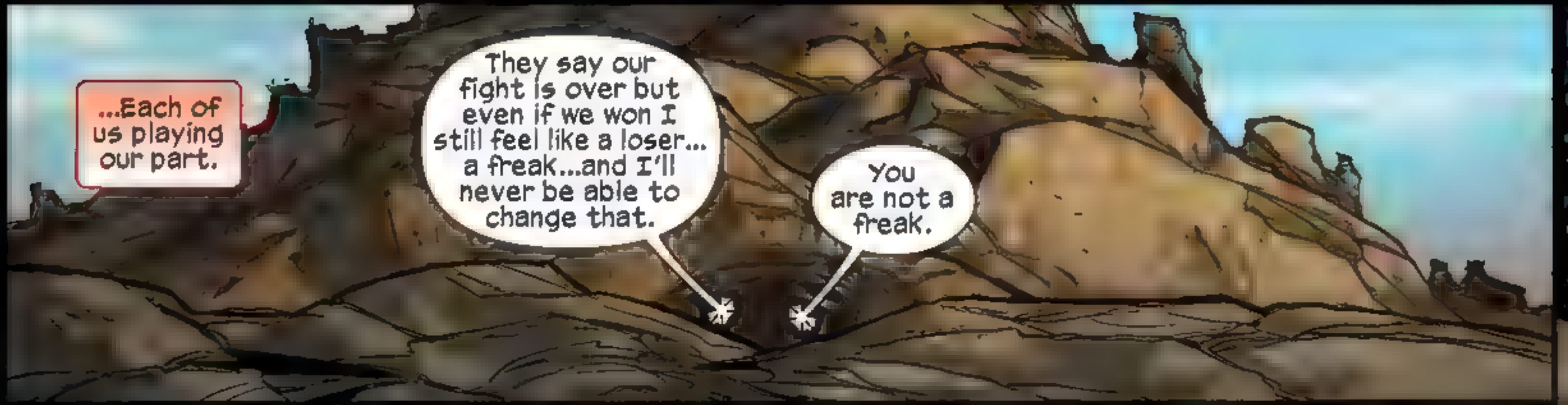
THY WILL  
BE DONE

KITTY PRYDE  
WILL DIE

...But we still  
had one final  
battle to win...



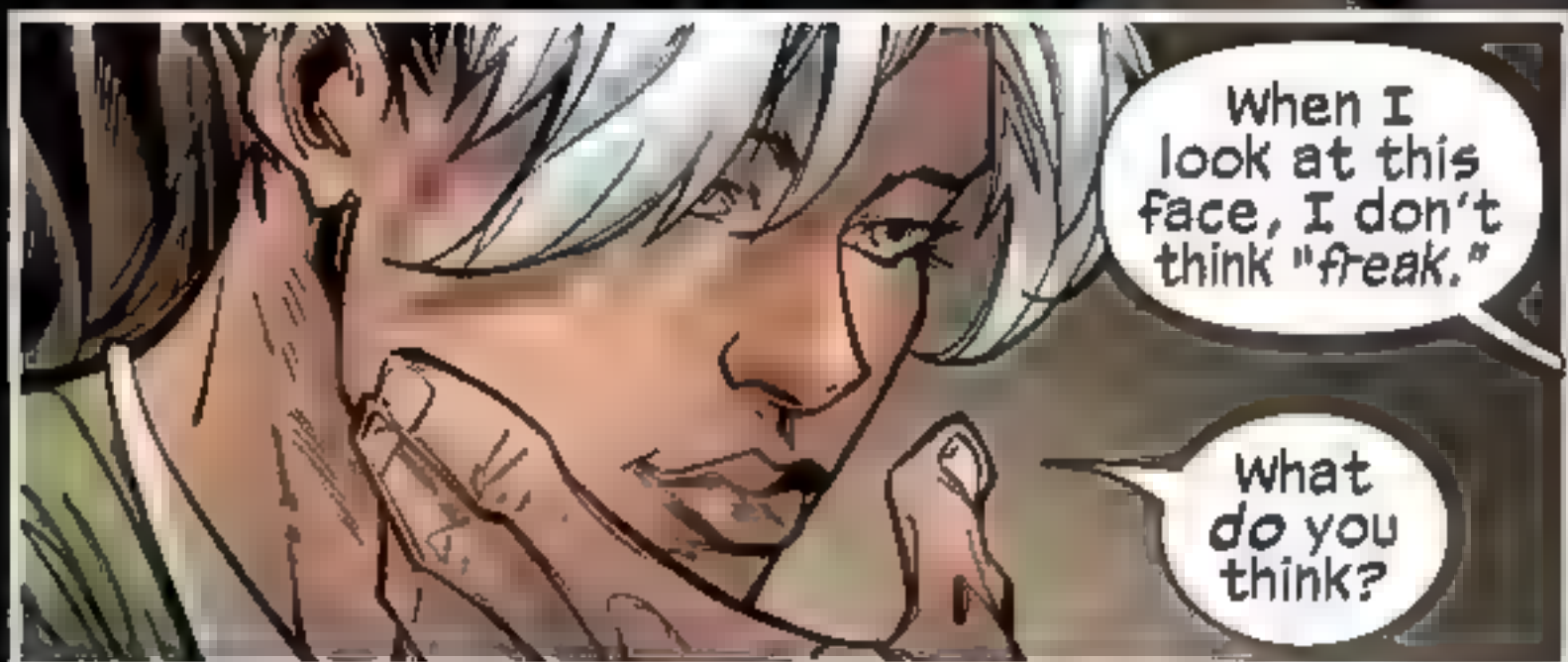




...Each of us playing our part.

They say our fight is over but even if we won I still feel like a loser... a freak...and I'll never be able to change that.

You are not a freak.



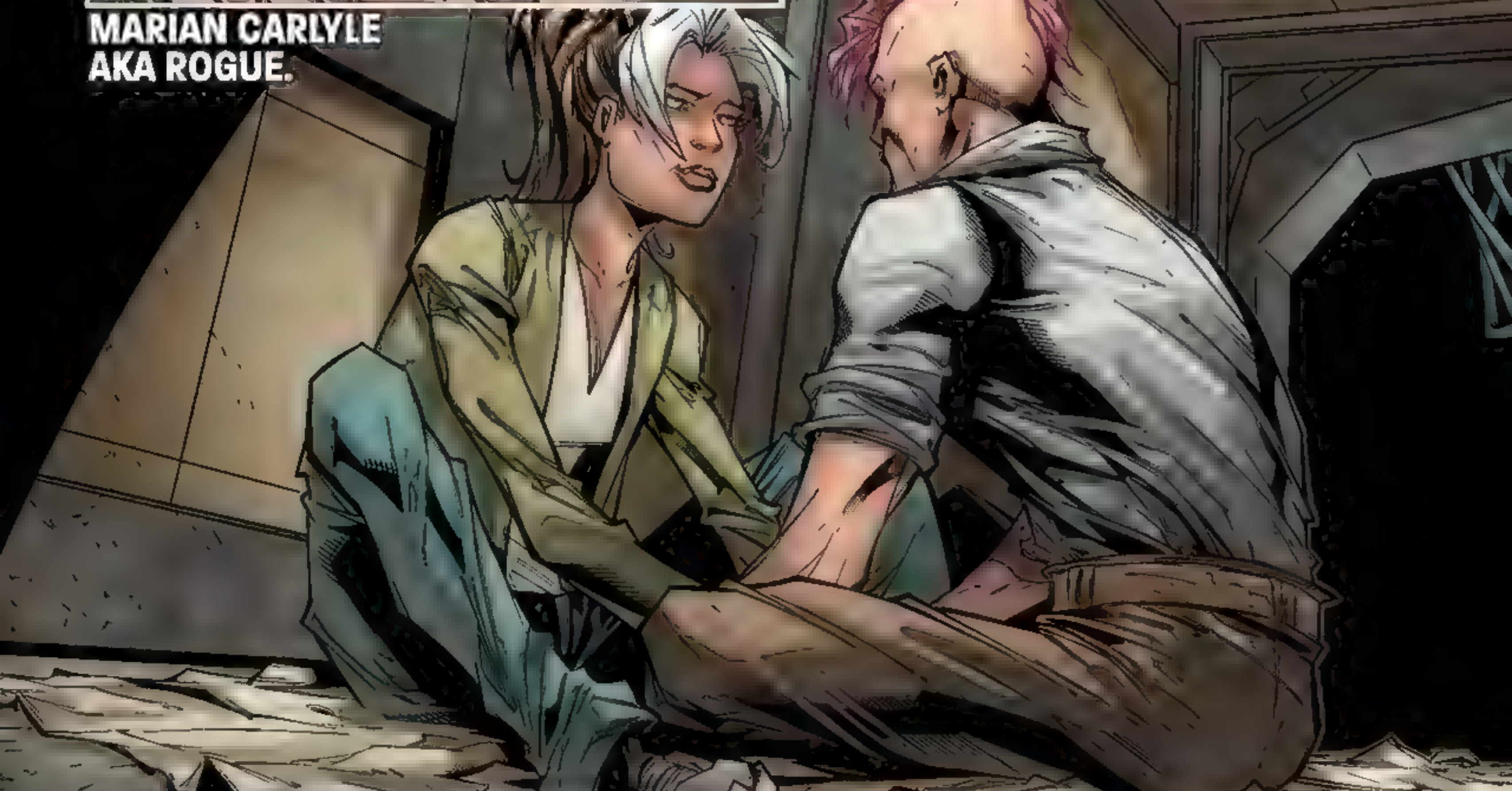
When I look at this face, I don't think "freak."

What do you think?

Troubled.  
Broken?

Just confused.

**MARIAN CARLYLE  
AKA ROGUE.**



I hear voices, I see things...I don't know what's real anymore.

I know my friends don't trust me. They're just waiting for the next time I start ranting about God or ghosts or horsemen, and they they'll bounce me from the team.

I can fix that.

Fix my friends?

I can fix you.

**QUENTIN QUIRE.**







People tend to die when they touch my skin. My mutation's a drag on my love life. So I don't understand how you're *immune*...

Who cares? What's important is that I am.

I'm a powerful telepath. Mind over matter.

Can you make the voices and visions go away?

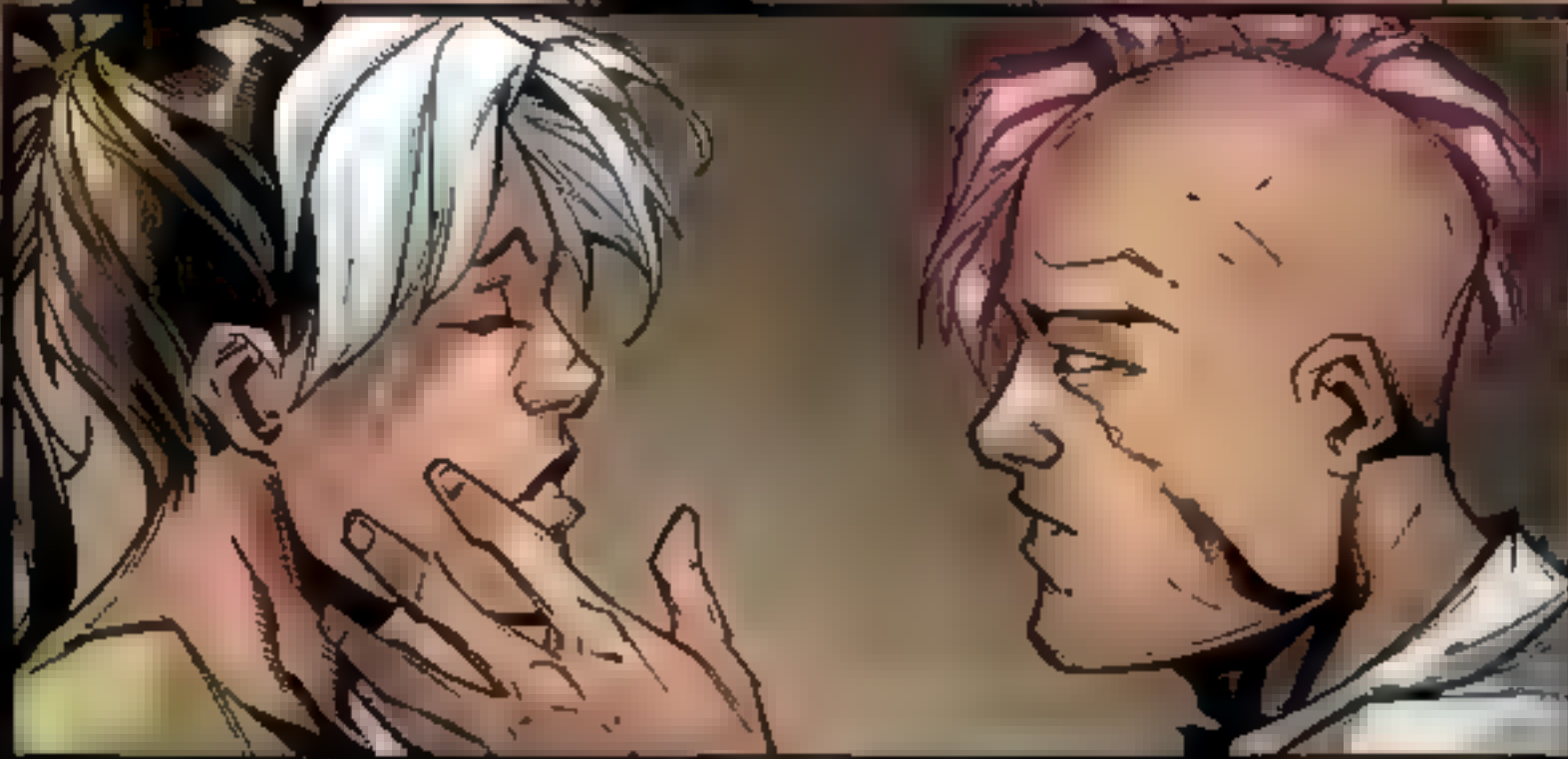
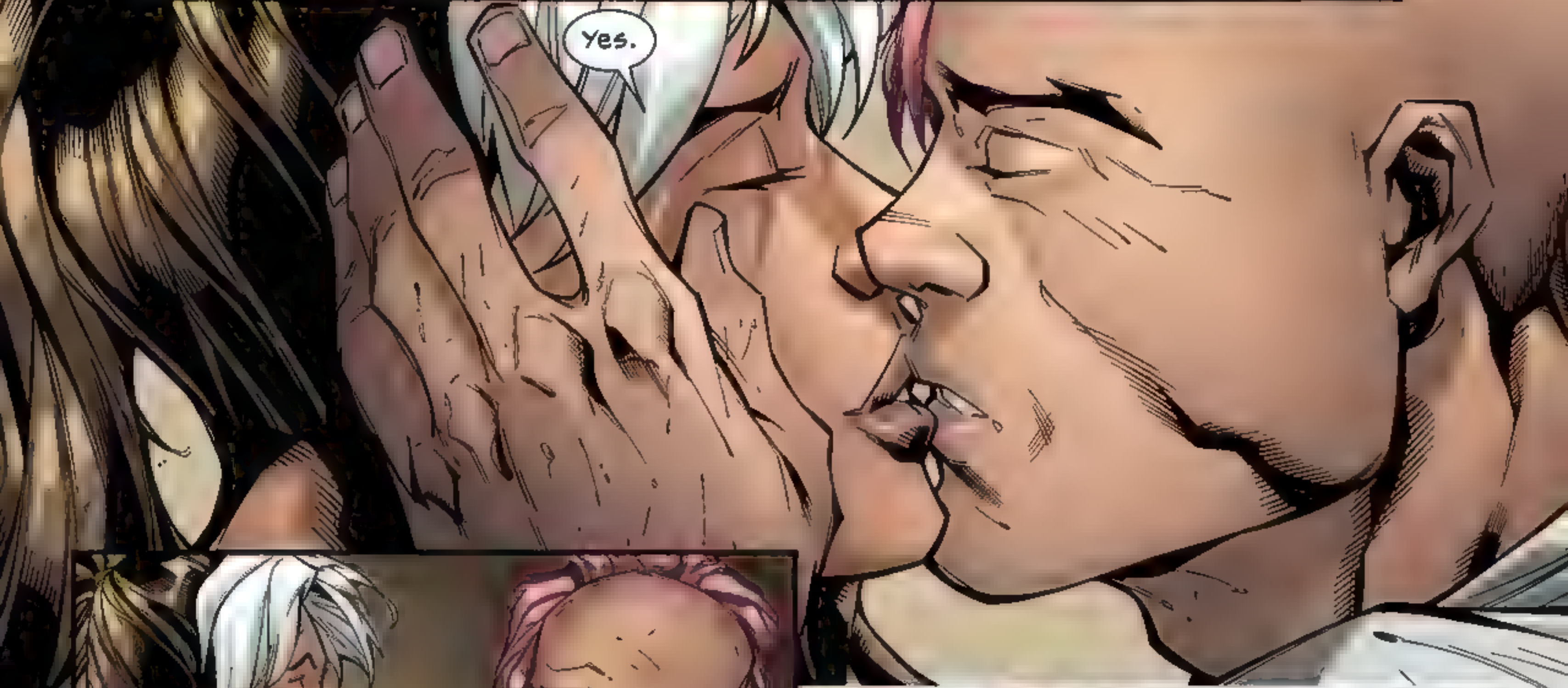
Yes.

All of it? You can make me feel normal and not crazy anymore? Like the old Marian Carlyle.

Is that what you really want?



Yes.



Oh wow.

Wow.

I feel... amazing.



# THE DISMANTLING OF STRYKER CAMP 14.

This is degrading, to have to clean up our own prison camp...

We can re-use this stuff, repurpose it into something that'll benefit us in the future. If it helps, consider it the spoils of war.

What future?

**JAMES PROUDSTAR**  
a.k.a. **WARPATH.**

**BOBBY DRAKE**  
a.k.a. **ICEMAN.**

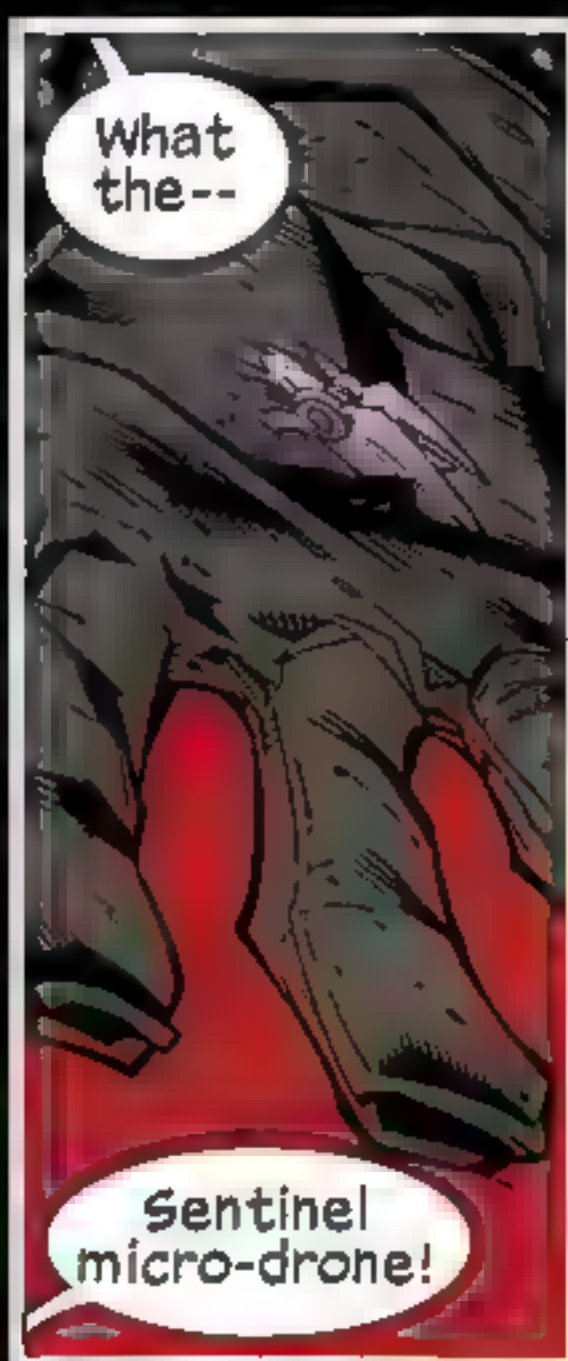
**ADAM** a.k.a. **ZERO.**



I hate these mosquitos.

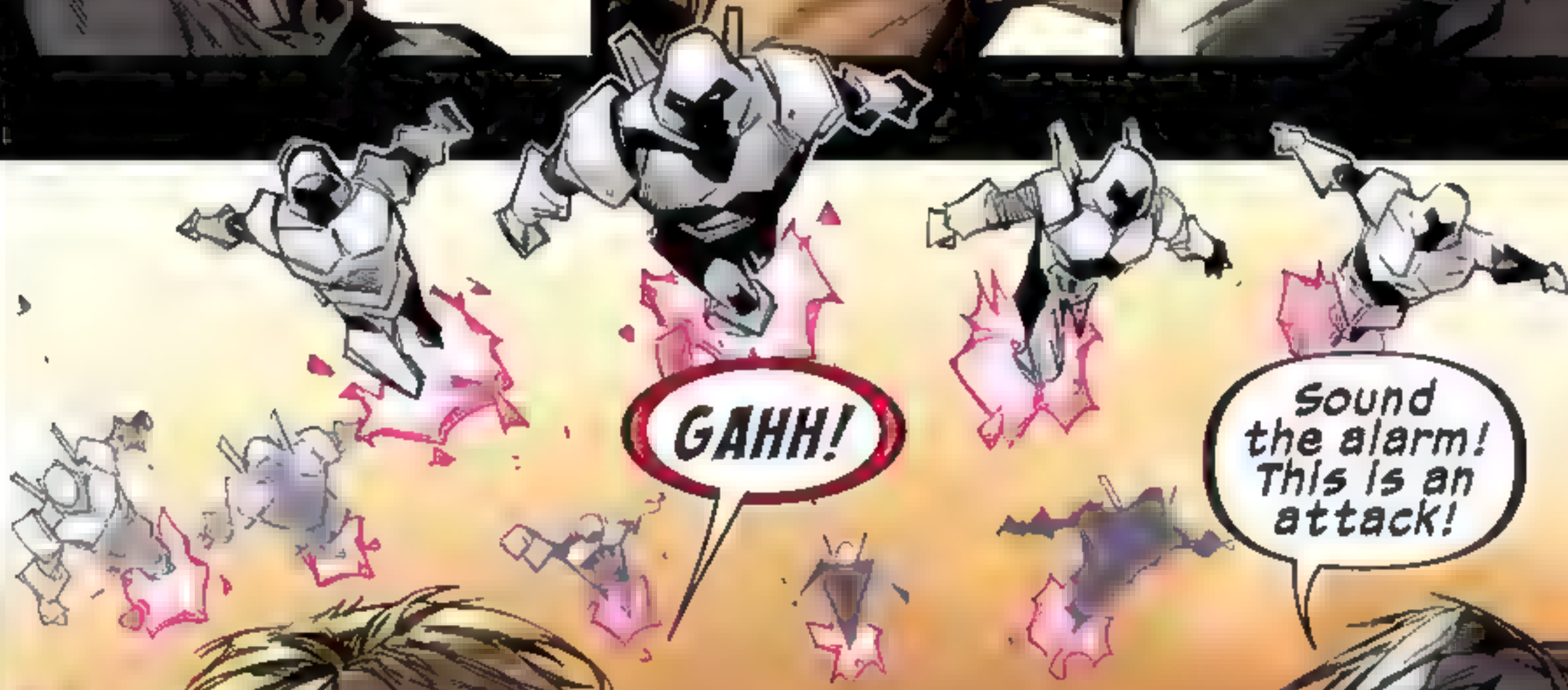


There's no mosquitos in the desert, man.



What the--

Sentinel micro-drone!



GAHH!

Sound the alarm! This is an attack!

Much later, we'd realize the Nimrod head I'd captured was talking directly to Stryker.

Well, the William Stryker consciousness driving the Nimrod force.





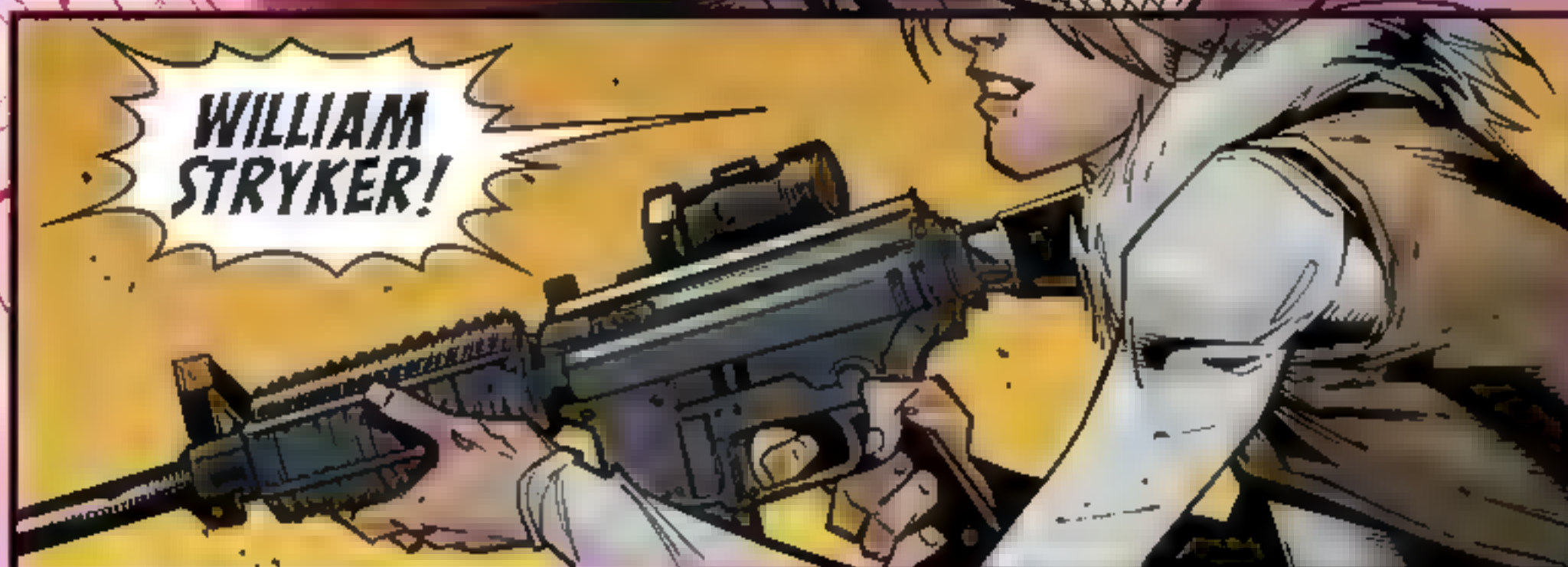
I could only imagine his hatred for me all this time, watching his fascist dream crumble.

Well, tough luck.

I'd gotten us this far. We were on the brink of true freedom, actual self-determination.

I know I said I was prepared to die for this.

But not today.



**WILLIAM STRYKER!**





KITTY PRYDE

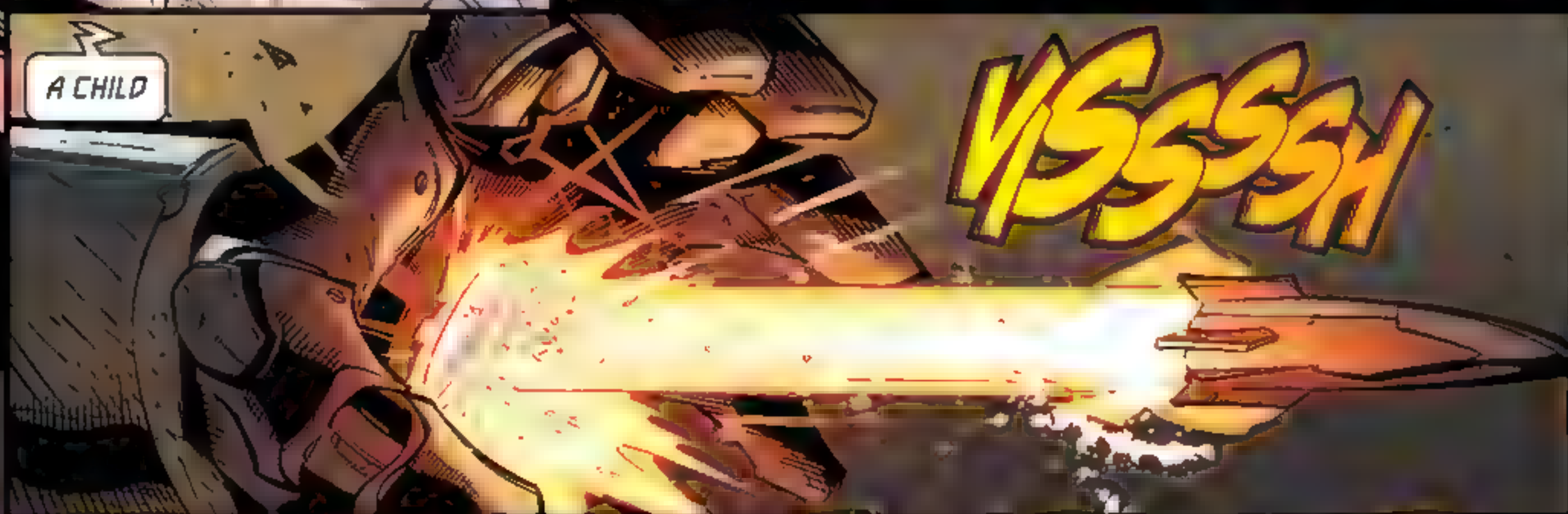


NEW YORK



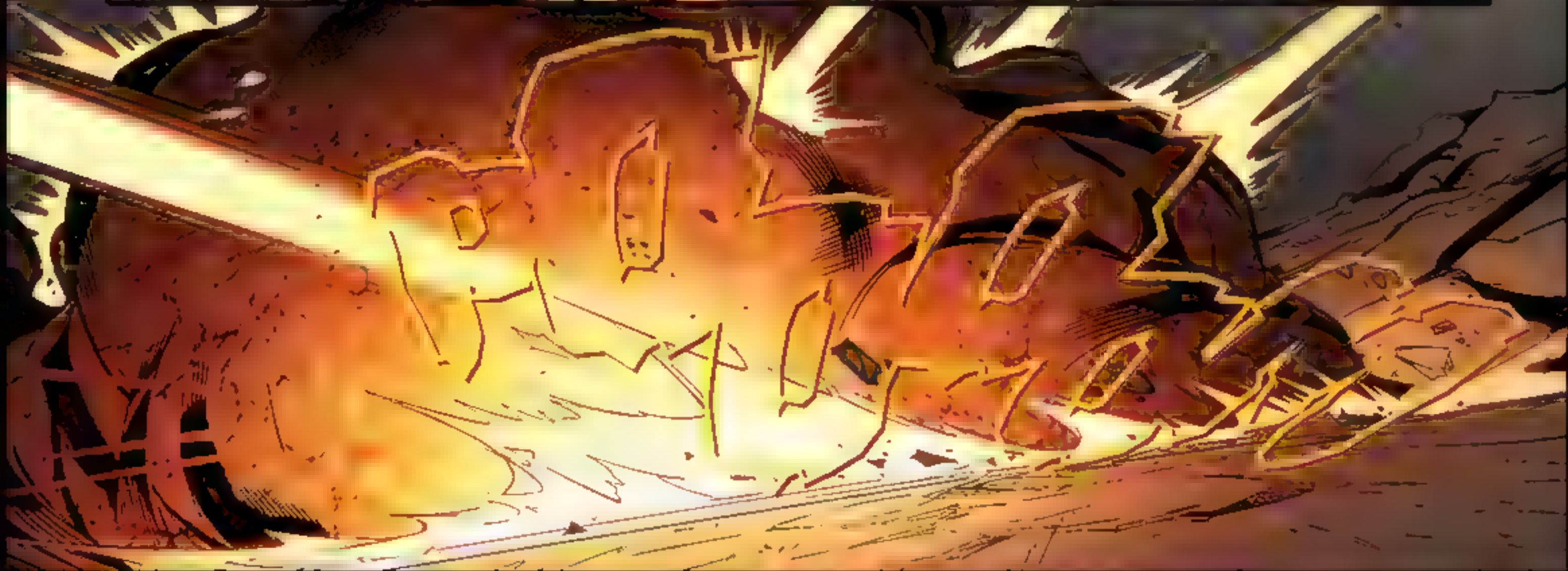
MUTANT

KILLED ME

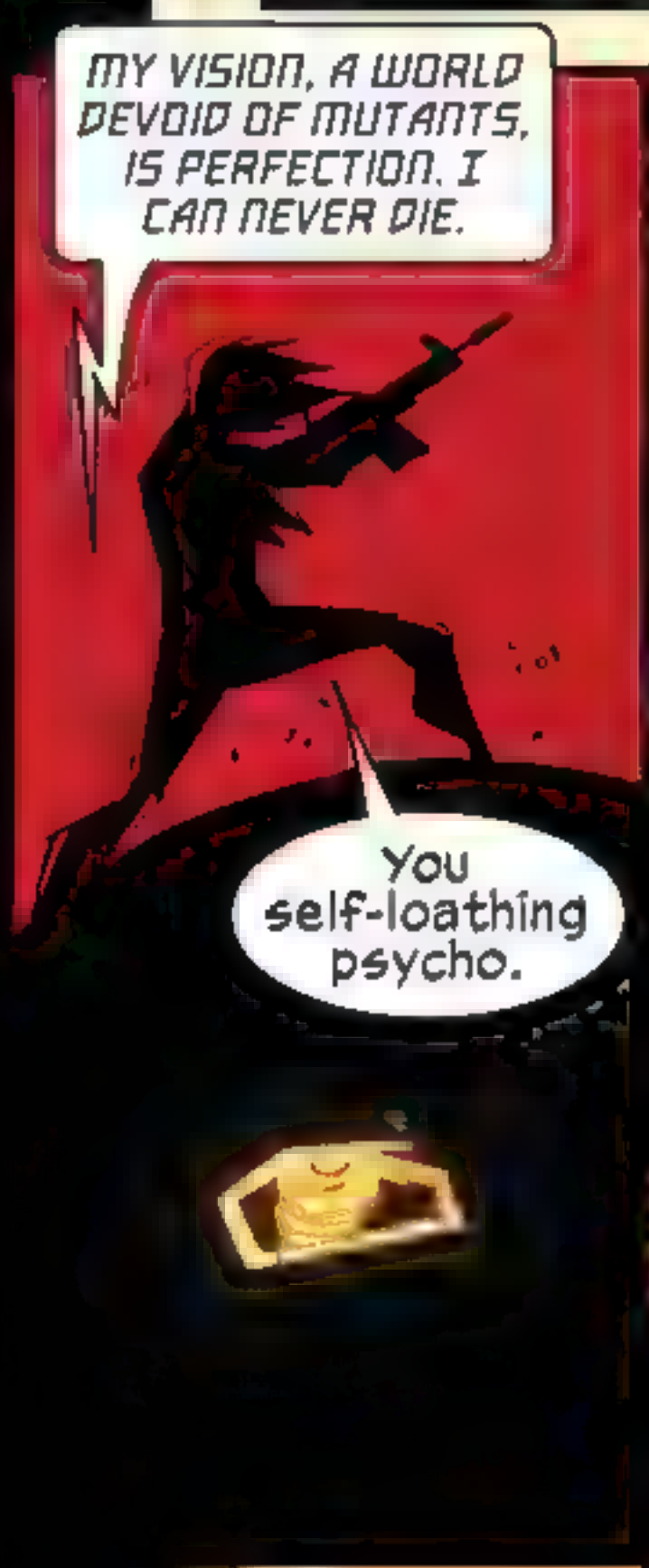
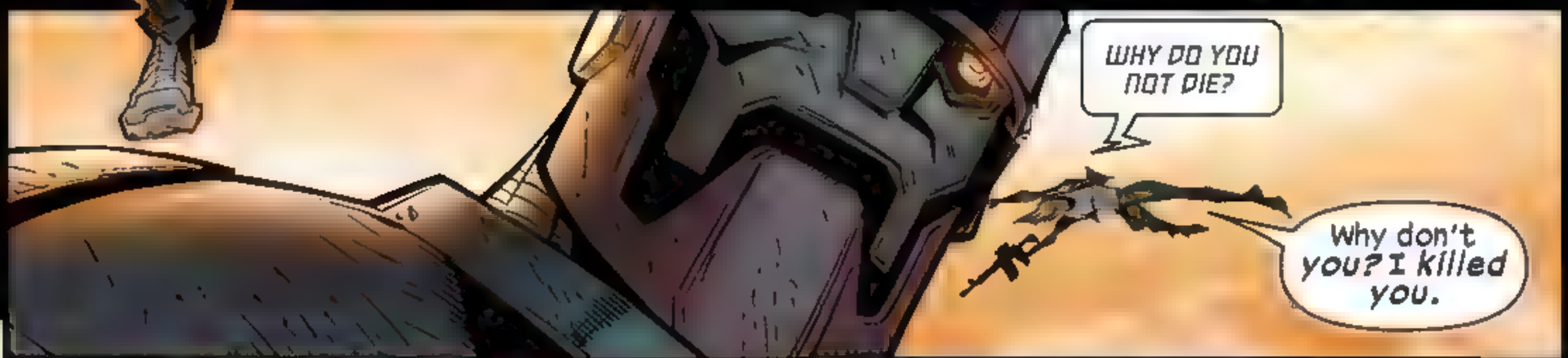


A CHILD

VSSSSH





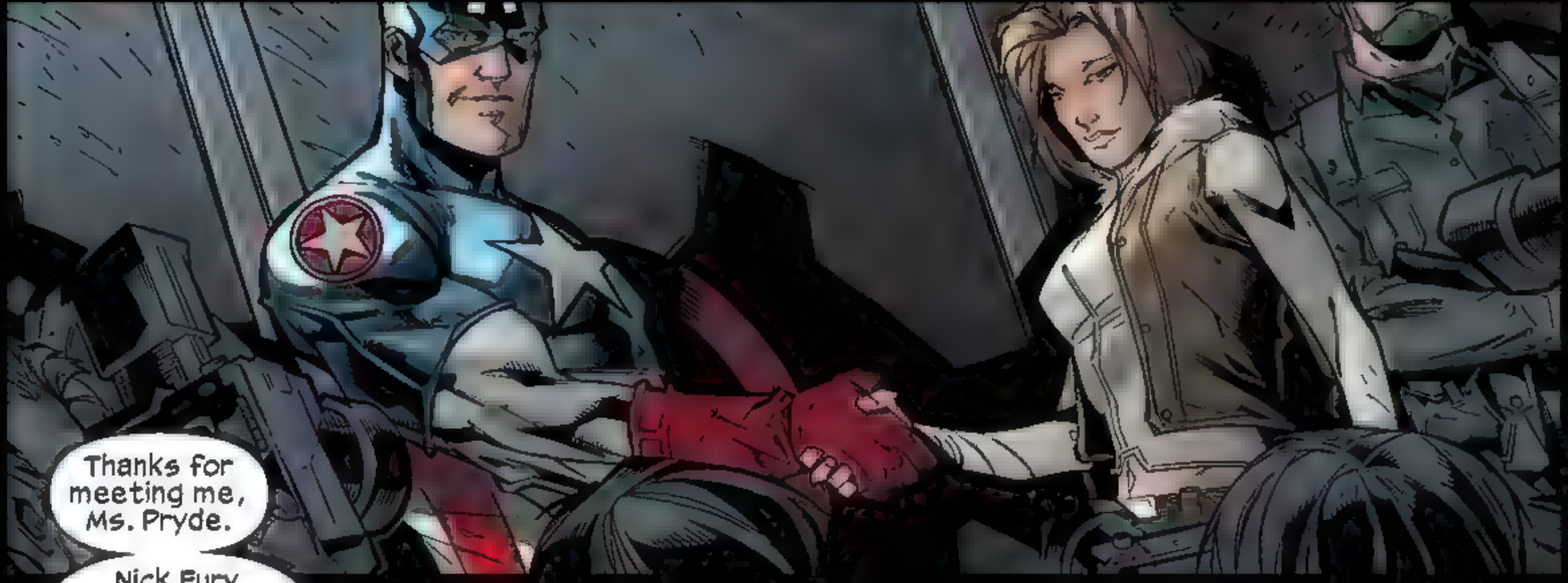




Arriving in the tumultuous Southwest States, Captain America puts in a short public appearance before moving on to one of the most controversial meetings of his young presidency: meeting with mutant leader Kitty Pryde.

The mutant question is white-hot, highly divisive, and some speculate that how he handles the situation will determine the status of the Union.

The stakes are incredibly high, and even with the destruction of the Sentinel army and many of the militia leaders behind bars, most Americans still hold extraordinarily negative opinions of mutants, in general.



Thanks for meeting me, Ms. Pryde.

Nick Fury thinks the best of you and I'll pay you the courtesy of not wasting your time.

I'm prepared to offer the mutant community two things.

A home, and a choice.

A choice, sir?

Have you heard of the SEAR virus? It removes the mutant gene. S.H.I.E.L.D. scientists were able to replicate it.



And I'm offering it to you.







...About swapping  
one enemy for  
another...



**NEXT: "RESERVATION X"!**



# NEXT ISSUE:

ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN #18.1

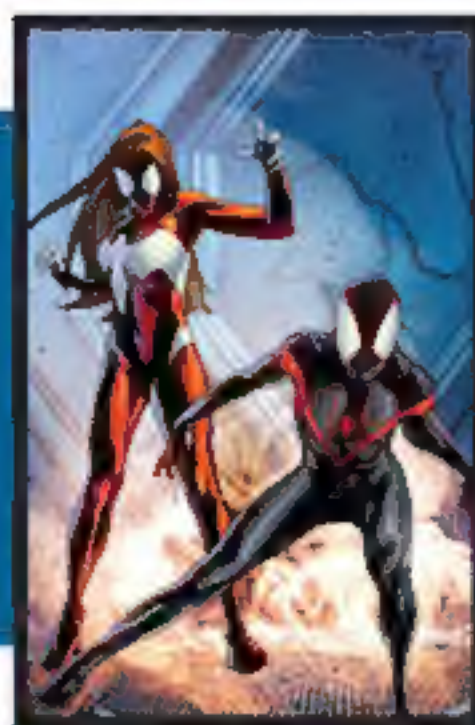


## UNITED WE STAND CHECKLIST

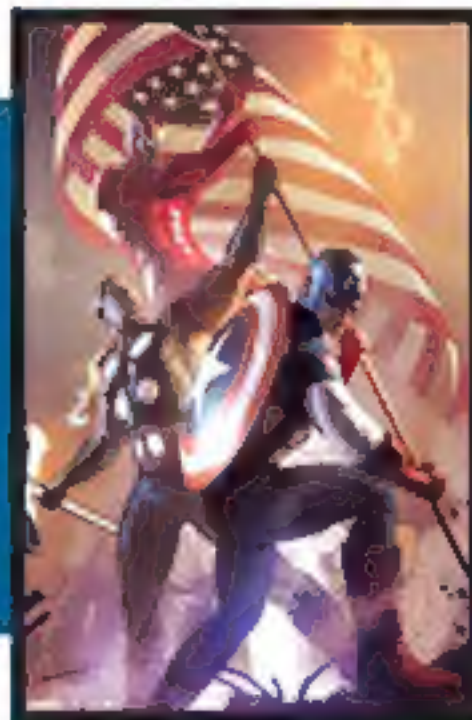
- ☒ ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN #16
- ☒ ULTIMATE COMICS SPIDER-MAN #15
- ☒ ULTIMATE COMICS ULTIMATES #16

- ☒ ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN #17
- ☒ ULTIMATE COMICS SPIDER-MAN #16
- ☒ ULTIMATE COMICS ULTIMATES #17
- ☒ ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN #18

- ☐ ULTIMATE COMICS SPIDER-MAN #17
- ☐ ULTIMATE COMICS ULTIMATES #18



ULTIMATE COMICS  
SPIDER-MAN #17



ULTIMATE COMICS  
ULTIMATES #18



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